

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A magnetic recording medium comprising:  
a non-magnetic substrate defining a front side and a back side; and  
a magnetic coating formed over the front side and characterized by  
Abrasive Index of not greater than 350 microinches.
2. The magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the Abrasive Index is  
in the range of 150 – 350 microinches.
3. The magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the Abrasive Index is  
not greater than 300 microinches.
4. The magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the magnetic coating  
includes a lower layer formed on the front side of the substrate and the upper layer  
formed over the lower layer.
5. The magnetic recording medium of claim 4, wherein the upper layer  
includes a magnetic metal particle dispersed in a binder and otherwise provides the  
Abrasive Index.
6. The magnetic recording medium of claim 5, wherein the magnetic metal  
particle is composed of at least 80% elemental iron having a coercivity in the range  
of 1600 – 2500 Oe as measured by VSM at 13 kOe.
7. The magnetic recording medium of claim 5, wherein the upper layer  
includes head cleaning agent in the range of 5.75 – 10.35 parts by weight based  
upon 100 part by weight of the magnetic metal particle.

8. The magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the magnetic recording medium is a DLT tape.
9. The magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the magnetic recording medium is configured to conform with an ECMA standard selected from the group consisting of DLT4, DLT5, and DLT6.
10. The magnetic recording medium of claim 1, wherein the magnetic coating has a coercivity of at least 1900 Oe.
11. A method of forming a magnetic recording medium, the method comprising:  
coating a front side of a non-magnetic substrate with a coating including magnetic pigment; and  
processing the coating to form a magnetic front coat having an Abrasivity Index of not greater than 350 microinches.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein processing the coating provides the magnetic front coat with an Abrasivity Index of not greater than 300 microinches.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein coating the front side of the non-magnetic substrate includes:  
preparing a lower layer coating material;  
preparing an upper layer coating material;  
coating the lower layer coating material on to the front side of the non-magnetic substrate; and  
coating the upper layer coating material on to the coated lower layer coating material.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein processing the coating includes burnishing the coating.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein prior to the step of burnishing, the coating exhibits an Abrasivity Index of greater than 350 micorinches.